

MILLIONS ARE LOST IN BIG EXPLOSION

Americans Battle With Mexicans

BRITISH PUSH FORWARD AT RIVER SOMME

Troops Advance Their Posts
During Series of Local
Encounters.

HEAT GROWS TERRIFIC

Opposing Forces Battle on
Despite Torrid Temper-
ature on Field.

London, July 31, (2:35 p. m.)—As the result of local encounters in the region of the river Somme, the British troops last night advanced their posts at some points on the plateau to the north of the town of Babentin Le Petit, it was officially announced this afternoon.

Paris, July 31.—North of the Somme yesterday afternoon and last night the Germans redoubled their counter attacks between Hemwood and Monacu farm, says the official statement issued this afternoon by the French war department. The struggle was especially severe around Monacu farm where the Germans got a footing for a moment but were immediately driven back.

Deny British Gain.
Berlin, July 31, (via London, 3 p. m.)—Anglo-French troops in their attack Sunday against the German positions in the region of the river Somme did not gain a foot of ground, according to the German army headquarters staff in its statement today.

Fight in Great Heat.
With the British Army in the field, July 30 (via London, July 31, 4:45 a. m.)—French and British soldiers made today's attack in sweltering mid-summer heat. The first real hot wave of the season struck northern France last night and this morning British and French infantry cooperated in an attack north of the Somme in front of Guillemont and Maurepas.

For the last few days the one word on everybody's tongue has been visibility, which has come into universal use since Admiral Jellicoe's first fleet dispatch. Formerly artillerymen spoke of good and bad light. Persistent bad light or low visibility, which did not permit the gunners to register their targets, had delayed any important infantry action. Yesterday the light became better as the heat grew tropic and offensive operations were renewed.

German Increase Numbers.
Every day the Germans have been increasing the number of guns and men in the Guillemont sector, which is among the last portions of high ground they hold. By prisoners taken 10 German battalions, or 10,000 men, have been identified on a front of 2,000 yards, where the Germans are still in their old second line fortifications. The Germans appear to regard this sector of critical importance, since the British broke the second line on the adjoining front of two miles on July 14.

Capture Railroad Station.
The British got possession of the railroad station, which they had reached in a previous attack. The British attack got into Guillemont and reached the church, where the Germans, swarming in dugouts, outnumbered the advance party which fought against their foe on all sides. It was one of those hand-to-hand and hide-and-seek conflicts in the village ruins of indescribable ferocity. The British had to retire from the edge of Guillemont, but made a considerable advance southward on the flank of the town where, through the hot night, fighting continued to maintain their gain.

Tentons Suffer Big Losses.
Perspiration made white water courses in the dust of the men's faces and their eyes looked out through masks so thick that their faces seemed covered with some kind of armor. Motor trucks passed like phantoms in thick clouds of dust. Gunners, stripped to the skin, kept on serving their guns at top speed. Soldiers who reached Guillemont speak of the fearful carnage among the Germans from the British gun fire, owing to the masses of Germans concentrated under the British bombardment before the infantry attacks. With the news of the shooting of Captain Fryatt fresh in their minds, the British went into the charge in a fury, swearing they would avenge his murder.

At Hem wood all the German assaults were repulsed by French counter attacks. French batteries on the left bank of the Somme, the statement continues, enfiladed the German troops, inflicting great loss.

"On the left bank of the Meuse, in the Verdun sector, a German attack on the northeast side of Hill 304 failed. "On the right bank of the Meuse the French progressed slightly in the region southwest of Fleury.

Yanks Fight Bandit Band Over Border

El Paso, Texas, July 31.—Two Americans were killed and one was wounded in a clash with Mexican bandits who had crossed the Rio Grande five miles below Fort Hancock, Tex., early this morning. There were five bandits in the party.

Private John Twoney, Troop F, Eighth United States cavalry, and Robert Woods, a United States customs inspector, were killed. Sergeant Lewis Thompson, Troop F, Eighth cavalry, was seriously wounded.

El Paso, Texas, July 31.—Several troops of the Eighth United States cavalry engaged in a running fight with Mexican bandits who crossed the Rio Grande a few miles below Fort Hancock, Texas, early today, according to reports to military authorities today.

The reports indicated that all of the bandits who composed the band which numbered less than ten, were killed. The command engaged was troop F. Reports reaching here indicated that from two to five American soldiers had been killed and that a detachment of the regular cavalry was supported in the clash by a detail of C company, 8th Massachusetts infantry.

More than 200 shots were fired during the engagement, it is reported. The Mexicans, it is believed, had crossed the line in an attempt to steal horses. Their presence was discovered by American outposts. The Mexicans were surprised and attacked by the cavalry patrol. The Mexicans, mounted on good horses, attempted to flee. They were intercepted and forced to fight.

General George Bell, Jr., commanding the El Paso military district, said early today that he had learned of the engagement through unofficial sources. He had had no reports from officers of the command, telephonic and telegraphic communication being difficult. Other reports reaching here indicated that the Mexicans had been killed, but that it was believed they were members of one of the Villista bands recently reported to have been operating south of the Rio Grande in that section.

Several stock stealing raids have taken place in the district within the last few weeks. One of them resulted in a small American detachment crossing the border in pursuit of the raiders.

San Antonio, Tex., July 31.—All five Mexican bandits who were in the clash with American troops near Fort Hancock early today were killed, according to a report transmitted to General Funston by General Bell, commanding at El Paso. The Americans lost two men killed and one wounded.

Russ Relief Work Begun.
New York, July 31.—The Russian-American relief association has been formed under the auspices of Madame Bakmeteff, wife of the Russian ambassador in the United States, for the relief of war sufferers in Russia. This is the first organization formed for the relief of Russian war victims.

THE WAR TODAY

Combined British and French forces on the Somme have made good progress in several recent attacks against the Germans. North of the Somme the French have captured trenches on a depth of from 200 to 500 metres and in addition have taken positions near the villages of Maurepas and Hem.

With the French on their right flank the British advanced on the entire line from Delville wood to the Somme. They also made further progress against the Germans east of Waterlot farm, Trones wood and Maltzow farm. Around Ypres the Canadians raided German trenches. The Germans made a raid on British trenches near the Hohenzollern redoubt but were later driven out.

Fierce hand to hand combats have occurred between the Russians and Germans in Volhynia. Berlin says the withdrawal from the Stokhod curve had been contemplated for some time and was made without interruption. Petrograd claims an advance for the Russians near Brody and south of the Dniester in Galicia, both Berlin and Vienna assert that the Teutonic allies repulsed all attacks.

Rome claims the Italians have made a gain against the Austrians on the Tenez plateau, north of Monte Cimone and in the Tofano region. The Russians have driven the Turks from strong positions near Kharpout.

U. S.—I CAN USE THAT FELLOW



Pope Admits His Failure to Stop War

Rome, via Paris, July 31 (10 a. m.)

—Failure of the pope's appeals to the warring nations for peace was admitted by the pontiff in addressing a delegation of the youth of Rome yesterday. The delegation prayed for peace in accordance with the pope's appeal to God on the last Sunday of the second year of the struggle to end the war.

The pope's aid the war, which was ravaging all the earth, was not visible on all faces, although such carnage made an ever-present call for mediation and patience. Yet, he said, adults were unable to forego the attractions of life, and that was why he turned to the children, who are nearest and dearest to God by their innocence and weakness.

"We, the father of all the faithful," he said, "have suffered, were exhorted and prayed for two years, but our exhortations to the combatants to lay down their arms and seek a settlement through the channels of justice and reason have been in vain; so we decided to have recourse to invocations to divine help by the all-powerful means of your innocence, hoping that the prodigy of the son of Hagar might be renewed."

CHINESE REBELS SPRING OUTBREAK

Hankow is Scene of Murderous Warfare as Outlaws Start Uprising —Many Reported Killed.

Peking, July 31.—In a revolutionary outbreak in Hankow last night a large district was burned and looted and many natives were killed and some Russian women injured before foreign volunteers checked the uprising. The revolutionary attempt was directed by leaders of the Kuo-Ming-Tang, the radical revolutionary party of China against the military governor Tsuchun Wang. The rioters started from the Japanese concession.

The demonstration apparently was planned to frighten the Peking government into granting the Kuo-Ming-Tang a larger recognition in the reorganization of the government at the meeting of parliament which begins tomorrow.

San Francisco, Cal., July 31.—Hankow, China, today was in the hands of a revolutionary mob and great quantities of property was being burned, according to cable advices received here by the Robert Dollar Steamship company from its Hankow office. No details were received.

DAY IN CONGRESS

SENATE.

Met at 10 a. m.
Senator Walsh spoke in favor of constitutional amendment to make federal judges ineligible to elective offices.

Considered amendments to federal reserve act.
Resume debate on District of Columbia appropriation bill.

HOUSE.

No session; meets Wednesday.

PORTUGAL NAVAL FORCE IN ACTION

Small Flotilla Is Reported Operating Off Coast of East Africa—Attack Germans.

Lisbon, July 31.—Portuguese naval forces have been operating in East Africa, though not on a large scale, says the Seculo. A dispatch received by the newspaper from Lourenco Marques says:

"A Portuguese flotilla made a reconnaissance on the left bank of the Rovuma (a river separating German East Africa from Portuguese East Africa) on the 20th. Tugs conducting a force were fired on by the Germans with machine guns, two Portuguese killed and five injured. Five days later the Portuguese again attacked the Germans, who were strongly entrenched on the right bank, but they had to retire owing to the state of the river after suffering considerable loss, including a captain. The Germans in this theatre are putting up an energetic defense."

CLOUDBURST AT DECATUR, REPORT

Decatur, Ill., July 31.—After a month without rain Decatur was visited by a cloudburst today. The temperature dropped 30 degrees in 15 minutes. The rain was accompanied by a hailstorm. The streets were flooded with water.

Peoria, Ill., July 31.—An end to an unprecedented drought extending over 35 days came with a thunderstorm and drenching rain here this afternoon. Ten deaths and a number of prostrations here Sunday were attributed to the excessive heat.

The storm swept over the factory district doing damage estimated at thousands of dollars. Several persons were reported struck by lightning.

MINE EXPLOSION IS FATAL TO FOUR

Underground Workers Are Killed By Gas Blast Near Pana, Ill.—Two Badly Injured.

Decatur, Ill., July 31.—Four miners were killed and two workmen severely injured in a gas explosion in Spring-side mine in the northeast part of Pana about 7 o'clock Sunday night.

The dead: JOHN COLEMAN, 33. JOHN TRASKOSKI, 19. MARCEL COSART, 22. ALEXANDER SANDEROCK, 25. The injured: James Kelly, night mine boss, severely bruised and burned. May die. John Grogan, 35, badly bruised, will recover.

The fan at the mine had been shut down for over a day. When the men entered the shaft, a quantity of explosive gas had collected and their open lamps ignited it.

Scenes at the mine were heart rendering as the wives and children of the dead miners gathered at the mine mouth to see the bodies of their loved ones carried out.

Second Raid Within Week Made by Zep

London, July 31, (12:40 p. m.)

—The second raid within a week of the east coast of England by a Zeppelin airship was made this morning. An official statement announcing the raid says the airship was engaged by a British aeroplane.

The statement follows: "At 5:15 o'clock this morning one of our aeroplanes pursued and attacked a Zeppelin 30 miles off the east coast. The pilot had fired more than two trays of ammunition into the Zeppelin when he was temporarily incapacitated by a portion of his machine gun flying off and stunning him. The Zeppelin was nowhere to be seen when the pilot regained consciousness. He was therefore forced to return to his station."

LAD BREAKS NECK IN DIVING STUNT

Muscantine, Iowa, July 31.—Norman Abbott, aged 22, of Wilton, sustained fatal injuries last evening while swimming in the Cedar river. Diving from a spring board into the shallow stream he struck the bottom. When he failed to reappear others rushed to his aid. He was rescued from the water in a paralyzed state. The discovery that his neck had been broken resulted in his immediate removal to the University hospital at Iowa City. No hope is extended for his recovery.

FREE SLOCUM OF BLAME FOR RAID

Washington, July 31.—Extracts from the final report of the inspector general's department on the Villa raid at Columbus, N. M., made public today by the war department show that Colonel Herbert J. Slocum of the Thirtieth cavalry, has been exonerated from all blame for the surprise attack upon his headquarters and the town. It was this raid that led to the dispatch of General Pershing's punitive expedition into Mexico.

The inspector general's report is based upon voluminous testimony heard from officers and men of the Thirtieth, civilians of Columbus and other persons with information on the subject.

THE WEATHER

Forecast Till 7 P. M. Tomorrow, for Rock Island, Davenport, Moline and Vicinity

Generally fair tonight and Tuesday; cooler tonight.

Highest temperature yesterday, 100; lowest last night, 78; at 7 a. m. today, 79.

Velocity of wind at 7 a. m., five miles per hour.

Humidity at 7 p. m., 48; at 7 a. m. 76; at 1 o'clock today, 50.

Stage of water, 6.4 feet, with fall of .2 of a foot in 48 hours.

J. M. SHERIER, Local Forecaster.

NEW YORK CITY SHELLED BY BLAZING AMMUNITION CRAFT; DEATH LIST GROWS

Cool Wave in Sight Claim Forecasters

Chicago, July 31.—Chicago and the middle west today awaited the drop in temperature promised by tomorrow at the latest, which was expected to break the long heat spell.

It was said at the weather bureau that the cool wave would be felt in Chicago possibly by tonight at 7 o'clock and that by daylight tomorrow morning it will be pleasant.

The government temperature at 7 o'clock this morning was 82 degrees, three degrees lower than on Saturday morning at the same time. Brisk winds gave added relief.

Chicago, after yesterday's sad spectacle of 115 deaths attributed to the heat and more than 400 prostrations, for the most part slept out doors again last night. Parks were crowded. More than 150,000 persons spent yesterday and last night in Lake Michigan.

The record breaking death rate of the last week has seriously tested the facilities of the coroner's office, while the prostrations have taxed the local hospitals and burdened the city's provision to the limit. Upwards of fifty babies succumbed to the heat yesterday. Among animals the death rate has almost established a new record. Dead horses were reported lying along the streets in many sections of the city.

"Relief from the torrid temperature was felt today over the country west of Chicago as far as the Rocky mountains and north of a line drawn through northern Iowa. The cool wave gradually moved south today and is expected to reach central Illinois this afternoon or tomorrow, though the drop in temperature is not expected to equal that here or in the north. In some points in southern Illinois and its latitude, the temperature is likely to remain slightly above normal, it is predicted.

While the extreme heat in Chicago lasted about three weeks, in the plains states generally, it reigned about a month.

TRAIN HITS AUTO; FOUR ARE KILLED

Father, Mother, Daughter and Hired Man Lose Lives in Tragedy Near Muscatine.

Muscatine, Iowa, July 31.—Four persons were killed at Stanwood on Sunday when a fast freight train struck an automobile in which were six passengers. The dead are: Mr. and Mrs. Ira Miller, who reside on a farm near Clarence, Iowa, their 16-year-old daughter, Eva, and Clarence Kinkey, aged 34, a hired man employed by the Millers.

A westbound freight train cleared a crossing near the depot at Stanwood the auto was driven directly in front of another train proceeding from the opposite direction. The two men were lodged on the engine cab and the lifeless bodies of the mother and daughter were found near the point of collision. Two younger children of Mr. and Mrs. Miller sustained injuries which may prove fatal.

Latest Bulletins

London, July 31.—The Italian steamship Bando, of 4,977 tons gross, has been sunk, Lloyd's shipping agency announced today.

Hamilton, Ont., July 31.—The hydro-transforming station at Dundas was almost completely destroyed by fire caused by a short circuit.

Pittsburgh, July 31.—Eleven hundred striking street cleaners and teamsters were today discharged by Robert Swan, director of public works, who advertised for men to fill their places.

San Diego, Cal., July 31.—The battleship San Diego of the Pacific fleet with Admiral W. D. Caperton on board will sail Wednesday for the lower Mexican coast.

London, July 31.—The Dutch mail steamship Konigin Wilhelmina has struck a mine near the North Hindich lightship, says a dispatch from The Hague to Reuters. Telegram company. The passengers left the vessel in the life boats and made for the light ship.

Washington, July 31.—Ambassador Sharp at Paris cabled the French department today that France acquiesced in the recent note of Great Britain offering to permit the shipment of American relief supplies into portions of Poland occupied by Teutonic forces on condition that the occupying armies would not seize or remove native food products.

Estimates of Damage and Casualties Increase in Stricken District.

TWO HELD FOR BLAST

Pair Placed Under Arrest—Property Loss Is Close to \$45,000,000.

New York, July 31.—Two men are under arrest today under warrants charging them with manslaughter indirectly causing the death of one of the victims of the terrible explosion of ammunition on Black Tom pier early yesterday morning.

Estimates of the casualties early today placed the number of dead at four, with three others mortally injured, 35 suffering from less serious injuries and eleven to twenty missing. Estimates of the property loss range from \$25,000,000 to \$45,000,000.

Many persons who were on board barges moored at the burned piers are missing and it is feared that they have perished. In some quarters it was believed the number of dead would reach 15.

Those under arrest were Albert M. Dickman, agent of the Lehigh Valley railroad, station at Black Tom pier; and Alexander Davidson, superintendent of the warehouses of the National Storage company, 13 of which were destroyed by the fire which followed the explosion. A warrant was issued for the arrest of Theodore B. Johnson, president of a lightering company, one of whose barges loaded with ammunition is alleged to have been moored at the pier.

Places Blame.

Frank Hague, commissioner of public safety of Jersey City charged that the blame of the explosion lay with either the Lehigh Valley railroad company, the storage company or the lighterage company and that some of them had violated the laws of New Jersey, the Jersey City ordinances and the rules of the interstate commerce commission by permitting barges loaded with explosives to remain moored at the piers overnight. These barges were being used to transport the ammunition to steamers lying in Gravesend bay.

Several investigations were commenced today to discover the origin of the fire which caused the awful explosion that destroyed \$5,000,000 worth of ammunition, 85 freight cars, set blazing ammunition barges adrift to bombard the Statue of Liberty and the Ellis island immigration station with shells and shrapnel and shattered \$100,000 worth of windows in this city.

The big pier just west of the Statue of Liberty is today a mass of smoking ruins. Work of repairing the damage to the buildings on Bedloe's and Ellis islands and in New York and Jersey City began this morning. The immigration station at Ellis island had the appearance of a war swept village with every window shattered, the roof of the hospital caved in, the main door blown away and the dining and executive rooms wrecked, while the island was strewn with bits of shrapnel, broken glass and three-inch shells thrown ashore from drifting barges which had bombarded the island as they burned. The damage was estimated at \$75,000.

The buildings on Bedloe's island, with doors blown down, and windows shattered, showed the marks of an eight-hour bombardment of shrapnel, iron bolts and spikes, pieces of steel and chains. The loss there is estimated at \$100,000. The Statue of Liberty virtually is undamaged but the doors to the pedestal are blown in.

Have Miraculous Escapes.

Stories told by those who narrowly escaped death verged on the miraculous. One man says he was blown off a lighter into the bay and swam to Bedloe's island, but had to swim back again to the Jersey shore when the flaming barges bombarded the island. "The air seemed to be full of flame and I thought the end of the world had come," said another survivor. A third was blown 50 feet from the top of a freight car and landed near a building which fell upon him.

The Jersey City police today added to the list of dead Cornelius J. Leyden, chief of the Lehigh Valley railroad police, who has been missing since the explosion occurred.

Warehouses Destroyed.
At least \$10,000,000, probably \$15,000,000 damage was caused by the destruction of 13 of the 18 warehouses of the National Storage company in Jersey City, Edmund L. Mackenzie stated today. This loss is amply insured.

On consignment of munitions and other supplies going to France, loss will fall on insurance companies because policies issued to the French government cover shipments from the beginning of the trip until delivery. English shipments are insured only "in waterside" in New York, while in the case of shipments to Russia, policies are written both ways.